

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

- Last week we heard the heartbreaking news that a community, Tumbler Ridge, BC, had suffered the devastating impact of violence as an individual used a firearm to take the lives of 9 others and injured 25 others. We grieve the lives lost. We pray for God's healing presence to surround all who have been traumatized. And we bear witness to our hope—that God's light still breaks into the deepest shadows of our world, a world in which such violence should never be possible. May Christ's peace hold us as we lament, pray, and seek a more life-giving way forward together.

- **Emergency support for Myanmar** - On February 11th, Mennonite Church Canada released an initial \$5,000 in emergency support for victims of a bombing in the village of Tlangkhua, Myanmar. Since then, Pastor Amos Chin has said "The situation in the village remains unstable. We fear more bombings. With the support of Mennonite Church Canada, we are able to provide critical assistance during this time of crisis. Our efforts include support to the families of those who have been killed, financial assistance to the injured, and rice distributions to vulnerable individuals." To donate, go to https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/winter_campaign_2026

From the Pastor

LENT-EASTER 2026: DWELLING IN DISSONANCE

Ours is a world of urgency, a digital age of immediate gratification. We rush to resolution. We binge watch. We speed to shave minutes off the GPS's ETA. We retreat into silos of sameness and scapegoat those who disagree with us. We skip from Palm Sunday to Easter. Our temptation to seek relief from the dissonant uncertainty of life's liminalities might be heightened this year. This is, after all, a historical moment when many of us feel caught up in forces beyond our control, such as the culture wars, military conflict, political polarization, power grabs, forced deportations, funding cuts, climate crises, ecological devastation, nuclear proliferation, and economic hardship.

We encounter the 2026 Narrative Lectionary Readings for Lent in this context: a slow, intentional journey through the second half of the gospel of John. After the first week's reading (John 11) we will spend the rest of Lent exploring John's Holy Week narratives.

Most years, the season of Lent is meant to prepare us for Holy Week. This year, the entire season of Lent is framed by the experience of Holy Week, inviting us to linger in the

intensity of the final week of Jesus' life, to dwell in the dissonance.

John's version of the story of Jesus reflects more on who he was and is, on his divinity, and on how his disciples, then and now, might make sense of Jesus' life and death.

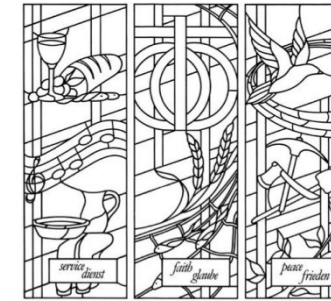
As you explore each week's Narrative Lectionary text, we invite you to ask, "What is the dissonance in this passage?" In music, dissonance occurs when two or more notes strike the listener as discordant. Our ear instinctively knows the note that will bring resolution and wants the dissonance to resolve to something more harmonious.

Similarly, we might be tempted to rush through the discord within these Lenten texts, anticipating the already-and-not-yet resolution of Easter. Can we receive the gift of the dissonance: the sense of both/and in all this seasons' stories and in our world, the knowing and not knowing, the tension between how things are and how one wants things to be? Can we pause on the threshold between loss and glory? Can we lament in the liminality, accept ambiguity, and lean into longing as we sense God at work (and sometimes not visibly at work) in these passages and in our world?

Ultimately, can we stay in the hard places with Jesus and linger throughout Lent at the edge of our understanding, so we might more fully remain open and present to the hard places and the mysteries we face today?

We, the writing team of Leader's Lent-Easter 2026 resources, are honoured to journey with you through the depth and challenge, the discord and grace of these texts. May we dwell in dissonance together, grateful for the gifts that come by, lingering in the Holy Week with the gospel of John, with God, and with the Spirit of Christ that connects us all.

- From Leader Magazine Winter 2025-26 Edition (Lent-Easter)



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXV No.8

February 22, 2026

Lent 1 Love and grief, glory and belief

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT 30 Jesus Calls Us

Call to worship

As we step into Lent, we say "welcome" to the dissonance.

We reserve a space for lament and grief,
to stay a while and do their work.

We release our nice little pictures
of perfect selves, perfect faith, perfect world,
and look for God in the heartache.

We listen for God in discordant melodies.

And follow Jesus to the cross, though we don't understand
and it doesn't compute.

As we step into Lent, we say "welcome" to the dissonance.
Trusting that God is here.

Now. In the mystery. Before it is resolved.

One: Welcome Lent.

All: Welcome mystery.

One: Welcome dissonance.

All: Welcome grief.

AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Rev. Erika Enns Rodine C: 204-963-5764

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9 am – 4 pm

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Moderator: Ang Enns C:204-324-4046

Past Moderator: Loren Brault: C: 204-995-5347

Custodians: Ethan Franz C:204-304-2296 Rheanne Julien C: 204-914-9591

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

One: Welcome glory and uncertainty.
All: Welcome doubt. Welcome belief.
One: Welcome questions without answers.
All: Welcome fullness from above.
One: Welcome death and resurrection.
All: Welcome Jesus' fiercest love.

Hymn VT 49 All Who Are Thirsty
Scripture Reading: John 11: 1-16
Musical time of reflection

Scripture Reading John 11: 17-44
Sermon The One Who Jesus Loves Dan Kehler
Hymn VT 588 We Walk By Faith

Sharing and Congregational Prayer
Hymn VT 644 Healer of our Every Ill
Benediction
Hymn VT 828 There's a Wild Hope in the Wind
Postlude

Worship Leader: June Schwartz
Musician(s): Loren Brault, Gina Enns
Technician: Kevin Neufeld

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

March 1 – Worship Service -Lent 2 – Erika Enns Rodine
Theme: Obvious and Hidden *Scripture:* John 13:1-17
Worship Leader: Andrea Hildebrand *Musician(s):* Paul Krahn
Technician: Loren Brault
5:00 pm Progressive Supper
March 3 9:00 am Contemplative Prayer Time
March 8 – Worship Service – Lent 3 – Erika Enns Rodine
March 10 – 4:30 pm Worship Committee meeting
March 13 – 15 – AMC Retreat at Camp Koinonia
March 15 – 11:00 am – Coffee in basement
March 22 – Worship Service – Lent 5 – Erika Enns Rodine
March 29 – Worship Service – Palm Sunday, AMC at Eastview
and Gardens – Erika Enns Rodine

Birthdays: February 22 – Elaine Loewen, Bev Barton

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

-**March 1**, 5 pm – Progressive Supper. Sign up Sheet in the lobby. Join us either as a diner or host! Deadline for sign up is February 22.

- **AMC Retreat March 13th-15th.** Sign up sheet in the lobby. Check out the good times we had last year-photos in the lobby! Deadline to sign up is March 1st. Arrive to Camp Koino anytime after 7:00PM on Friday. Relax on the shores of Max Lake! Main lodge has family style rooms with en suites. Activities available are cross country skiing, snowshoeing, nature walks, toboggan run, ice skating. Planned activity for AMC Bingo and Prayer Flags. Main lodge has oodles of space and light for puzzling, reading, games, and other activities you would like to bring for a weekend of rest, rejuvenation and community. Cost \$125.00/adult and \$50.00/child. Hope to see you there!

- A reminder that the **10:30 am AMC Coffee sign up sheet** is on the wall near the office door. Feel free to volunteer!

From the Treasurer:

- Your 2025 Donation Tax Receipts are in your mailboxes. If you have any questions, see Marnë Mierau Friesen.
- Ways to Give at Altona Mennonite Church:
- cash or cheque in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary
- online bill payments through Access Credit Union
- etransfer to amchurchdonations@gmail.com
Thank you for your donations as we continue to be church together!

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- You are invited to attend the Altona MCC Thrift Shop Annual General Meeting at SPMB Church Monday, February 23, 2026, at 3:00 pm. The agenda will include: MCC report by Konrad Loewen, door prizes, short anecdotes, Financial Report, Board Elections, with a Soup & Pie Supper to follow.
- **Altona United Church** (45 3rd Ave SE) invites us to join them for their Lenten services:
• Lenten Bible Study "Journey Through Lent" – Tuesdays – Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
• An Evening of Prayer "From Ashes to Grace" – Wed. April 1 @ 7 pm
We will be worshipping together on Good Friday.

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Come and See/Come and Listen:** Esther Epp-Tiessen and Jan McIntyre will share stories from their November solidarity pilgrimage to Palestine. Tuesday, **Feb 24th 7:00 pm** at CMU Heritage Gallery, 610 Shaftesbury Blvd. Includes Q and A, and the current exhibit, "The Land Remembers--Palestine: Courage, Resilience, Resistance."
- **MCM Annual Gathering will be held March 6-7** at Bethel Mennonite Church. The theme is "See, I Am Doing a New Thing!" Report book for the Gathering 2026 can be found on the web page: www.mennochurch.mb.ca/gathering
- **CMU Discover Day** – Join us for the full day or the afternoon of Friday, February 27 to discover what it is like to be a CMU student. Tour the CMU campus, attend a sample lecture, meet professors and current students, and have lunch and treats on us! For more information and to register, visit cmu.ca/discover-days.
- **Face2Face at CMU: Being Peacemakers for a World of Surging Polarization** – You are invited on March 11 at 7:00 PM to Marpeck Commons or via livestream for an opportunity to explore how faith-driven empathy can bridge deep cultural divides with Dr. Chris Rice and faculty from CMU. Visit cmu.ca/face2face for more information and the livestream.
- **Camps with Meaning summer staff** application portal is open. www.campswithmeaning.org/staff
- **Summer camp registration** is open for kids Gr 1 to Gr 12. www.campswithmeaning.org

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Jean Tarnick is at Eastview Place. She is finding the days long as she can't move independently. She welcomes visitors.
- Bev Barton is back at home. There are still tests to be done. Pray for calm.
- We pray for the seniors in our congregation: Marianne Braun at Eastview; Bill Loewen and Elizabeth Falk at the Gardens; Harry & Susan Klassen at Golden West, and others who are not named.- We pray for all who are living with ongoing health concerns.
- We pray for those who are grieving, for those whose mental health and physical health make employment and daily life a struggle, for those in transition, for those who have moved to or are waiting to move to a new home. We pray for the family care-givers.